

Rules and Administration will meet in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, on Wednesday, March 25, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. to receive testimony on the Federal Election Commission's budget authorization request for FY99.

For further information concerning this hearing, please contact Bruce Kasold of the Rules Committee staff at 224-3448.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 10 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony on NATO enlargement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. on tobacco legislation (Governors/retailers).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing on which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1488 and accompanying Senate amendment No. 1618, legislation to ratify an agreement between the Aleut Corporation and the United States of America to exchange land rights received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for certain land interests on Adak Island, and for other purposes; and S. 1670, a bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for selection of lands by certain veterans of the Vietnam era.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 5:15 p.m., in the Vice President's office of the United States Capitol Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Health Insurance Portability and Ac-

countability Act of 1996: First Year Implementation Concerns during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 1998 beginning at 8:30 a.m. until business is completed, to conduct an oversight hearing on the FY99 budget and operations of the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 1998 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS, AND COMPETITION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 19, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a hearing in Room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: "International Aviation Alliances."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 2:30 p.m. in open/closed session, to receive testimony on the Department of Energy's Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 1999 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

POW/MIA COOPERATION FROM FORMER EASTERN BLOC NATIONS

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, as you know, earlier this week the full Senate began to deliberate expanding the NATO treaty to include the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary. While I have already presented some opening remarks on the floor about my concerns with moving forward now on this matter, I want to

update my colleagues on a closely related issue which I personally think has some degree of relevance to what we are considering.

In July, 1997, I was pleased to be a leader of a delegation to Prague and Warsaw whose primary mission was to seek information about missing American servicemen from the Cold War period. I was joined on this trip by my House colleague, Congressman SAM JOHNSON of Texas—himself a former POW from Vietnam—and also by one of our former Ambassadors to the Soviet Union, Malcolm Toon. Together, we are all members of a Joint Commission with Russia on the POW and MIA issue which was established by President Bush and President Yeltsin in 1992. One of our goals last summer was to broaden our search to the former communist Eastern Bloc nations who were allied with North Vietnam, North Korea, and the Soviet Union during the Cold War period.

During our trip, we were received by the President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel, and the President of the Republic of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski. We also met with various ministers in each of these two countries. I want my colleagues to know that we were very impressed with the pledges of cooperation we received at all levels during all of our meetings. It appeared to us at the time that Poland and the Czech Republic clearly understood the importance that Americans attach to resolving lingering questions about the fate of our unaccounted for POWs and MIAs. These nations had suffered their own tragedies under communist domination, and we believed there would be a sincere, thorough effort to assist us with our humanitarian mission.

I might also add that although we did not personally visit Hungary during that trip, we did send staff representatives to Budapest, and we later received similar pledges of cooperation from the Hungarian Embassy in Washington.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, I must report that the follow-up actions that we had hoped would take place have not been satisfactorily fulfilled by these three nations. This is especially disturbing and troublesome to me as the full Senate now considers whether to guarantee putting more American military lives on the line for these republics in the former Eastern Bloc.

It has been said by some NATO expansion advocates that we have an opportunity to ensure the Cold War never resurfaces in this part of the world. Yet, we still cannot seem to get the cooperation we need from this region to address vital questions about our missing and captured Americans from this same Cold War period. We still are not able to resolve this Cold War problem.

If their pledges were indeed genuine, as I believed they were, then I, frankly, question Mr. President why the leaders of these countries cannot convince their respective bureaucracies to open